

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 AGRE-00  
EB-08 /083 W

-----033282 030740Z /15

R 021437Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3170  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 15681

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EGEN, KE, ET  
SUBJ: KENYAN SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA

1. GOK HAS USED PRESENCE OF FOUR-MAN ETHIOPIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION, HEADED BY DR. ASHAGRE YIGLETU, MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND TOURISM, TO REITERATE SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA IN OGADEN FIGHTING. ATTORNEY GENERAL NJONJO, WHO IS ACTING MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND OFTEN SPOKESMAN FOR GOK, QUOTED AS SAYING "KENYANS WERE DETERMINED TO MAKE SURE ETHIOPIA WINS WAR AGAINST THE AGGRESSORS." QUOTED STATEMENT MADE DURING SIGNING CEREMONY OF "ECONOMIC ACCORD" DESIGNED TO FOSTER "CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES."

2. DURING RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH GOK OFFICIALS, LATTER HAVE EMPHASIZED KENYAN SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA AS FRONT AGAINST COMMON ENEMY SOMALIA, ALTHOUGH IN SOME INSTANCES THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF CONCERN OVER RADICAL DIRECTION OF ETHIOPIAN REGIME.

3. ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION SPENT MUCH TIME IN MOBASA LOOKING  
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OVER PORT FACILITIES. WE HAD EARLIER LEARNED THAT KENYA HAD OFFERED ETHIOPIA USE OF MOMBASA FOR TRANSSHIPMENT OF WAR MATERIEL BUT THAT OFFER HAD NOT BEEN UTILIZED. WE NOW HAVE ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT ETHIOPIANS STUDIED MOMBASA FACILITIES EXPRESSLY FOR PURPOSE OF TRANSSHIPPING GOODS INTO ETHIOPIA. HOWEVER, WE QUESTION UTILITY THIS ROUTE GIVEN DIFFICULTY OF ROAD TRANSPORT. ON KENYAN SIDE, ROAD FROM ISILO TO MOYALE IS

UNPAVED AND, WHILE IT IS RELATIVELY WELL MAINTAINED, THE MAIN BRIDGE JUST BEFORE MOYALE HAS BEEN OUT SINCE LAST APRIL, AND DETOUR IS DIFFICULT FOR HEAVY LOADS AND PROBABLY IMPASSABLE DURING WET SEASONS. WHILE ROAD ON ETHIOPIAN SIDE IS PAVED TO ADDIS ABABA, ICRC REPS HERE HAVE TOLD US THAT ETHIOPIANS HAD TURNED DOWN USE OF THIS ROAD FOR RELIEF SUPPLIES CLAIMING IT WOULD TAKE LARGE MILITARY ESCORT TO GET THROUGH POINTS INTERDICTED BY SHIFTA.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT DURING ETHIOPIAN VISIT GOK AGREED SUPPLY FOOD RELIEF. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT GOK USED VISIT TO TRY EXPAND ITS EXPORTS TO ETHIOPIA TO HELP REPLACE LOSS OF TANZANIAN MARKET.

5. WE HAVE INDEPENDENT REPORTS THAT GOK OFFERED ETHIOPIA 10,000 TONS OF MAIZE (KENYA HAS CURRENT MAIZE SURPLUS), 10 MILLION KENYAN SHILLINGS GRANT FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD STUFFS, AND ADDITIONAL 10 MILLION KENYAN SHILLINGS CREDIT FOR PURCHASES IN KENYA. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT KENYA TRYING TO SELL SURPLUS TANKER TRUCKS TO ETHIOPIA.

6. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO GET DETAILS OF ACCORD WHICH OBVIOUSLY HAS MORE POLITICAL THAN ECONOMIC MEANING.

7. COMMENT: WOULD NOTE THAT WHILE GOK TAKES EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS KENYAN SOLIDARITY WITH ETHIOPIA AGAINST  
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SOMALI EXPANSIONISM, FACT THAT RECENT DELEGATION RECEIVED BY NEITHER PRESIDENT NOR FOREIGN MINISTER SUGGESTS GOK WISHES MAINTAIN SOME DISTANCE WHEN DEALING WITH MENGISTU REGIME.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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